

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 6, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Guinta.

A moment of silent prayer was observed in memory of two retired firefighters who passed away this week – Chris Sullivan and John Early.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Mary McKee, 112 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I am here because of Manchester Place. I welcome it to the City. I think it is awesome. My only concern is the traffic. Where I live it is constant and it is a risk for most of us who live there and it has been going on for years. With the increase in population I am afraid they are going to be using our private way as an exit because it is about the only thing around.

Addie Camelio, 116 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I am actually part owner in two of the buildings and I am also worried about the traffic that goes through Hollis and Kidder Street.

Mayor Baines stated we will definitely have the Traffic and Highway Departments look at those issues and get back to you.

James Lombardi, Attorney for Amoskeag Place stated:

I am the individual who wrote the letter on their behalf to the Board and I appreciate your taking the time to consider the issue. There are several people here who want to express their feelings about what is going on with Manchester Place and as the first woman indicated I think most people are...they certainly welcome the project. It is not that they are looking to create problems. They are looking to resolve them. That is my job to help them get to where they feel they should be. Again I appreciate your time on this. It is on the consent agenda if the Board is so inclined to remove it or move it off the consent agenda for discussion I would be happy to answer any questions and engage in discussion if that is what is going to take place.

Marc Mercier, 101 Kidder Street, Manchester stated:

This entire project has been an inconvenience to all of our neighbors that live there from the closing of Kidder Street, just the dirt and mess that is all over the place. A lack of parking because Kidder Street was closed. Just all kinds of things but everyone keeps saying don't worry the project is finishing up and when it finishes up all of the problems will go away. Well I see two major problems that won't go away. One of them is that garage. That thing is ugly. I mean look at it. It looks unfinished, there are bolts hanging out on the side, there are wires all over the place and there are rivets that you can see. I drove around tonight after work and I went to the parking garages in this City currently that have been around for years and years and this thing is supposed to be a state-of-the-art parking garage? It is the worst one we have in the City. I mean just take a drive by and look at all of our parking garages. They are so much nicer than this thing and this thing is new. If we don't do something...this is the heart of downtown Manchester and this garage is what we have to look at? Something really needs to be done. The other problem I see is parking on Kidder Street. Now Amoskeag Place gives you one parking spot for free. Guess what? We are going to charge you \$100 for your second one. There are going to be a lot of people in that building that have two cars and guess what? A lot of them may not want to pay that \$100 fee so what are they going to do? They are going to march right down here to City Hall and ask for a free permit and guess what? Then they will be parking on Kidder and Hollis Street where we have been parking for years. There is limited space and access as it is now and you are also talking about the visitors that come to visit this place and their friends and family, which should come to visit them but they are going to take parking spaces also. Honestly again I mean the parking garage, drive by it. I drove into it on Sunday and the drive up that parking garage because there is no barrier it is so dangerous looking and I am telling you that sooner or later...just drive up and take a look around. It will scare you I guarantee you. When you get over the building height it will scare you to see that there is no barrier and please take a look at our other parking garages and compare them to this place and this place was just built? Something needs to be done.

Richard Tango-Lowy, 98 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I am a relatively new Manchester resident and enjoying it thoroughly. My only comment about Manchester Place is actually from the point at which they turned on the lighting in the garage no one in our building has nighttime anymore. It is very, very bright. In looking at some of the other garages in Manchester they tend to use off white lights or better hooding that I think would prevent the light pollution that we are getting from this place. For about a month I did have the opportunity to look out and enjoy the view of Manchester and now unfortunately all we see is lights. I hope you take this under consideration. Thank you very much we are enjoying Manchester a lot.

Dick Charpentier, 99 Kidder Street, Manchester stated:

I just want to let you know that some of the items that I talked about several weeks ago have been taken care of. Everyone has said as construction came to completion that things would be straightened out. Well some of them are. The parking meters are now straight. The problems with the sidewalk have been corrected. It doesn't look great but they have been corrected. My major issue again gets back to safety. There is one of those signs that say according to state law yield to pedestrians. Well about six weeks ago it was pulled from the middle of the street and put on the sidewalk right in front of Manchester Place on Elm Street. It has been covered over with snow and hasn't budged in six weeks so it is not doing much good for pedestrian safety. Also Mayor you said at the last meeting that things would get taken care of and we would have some kind of a meeting. It has been seven weeks and we haven't had any kind of a meeting yet. Just a reminder. Thank you for your time.

Robert Leighton, 170 Amherst Street, Manchester stated:

In the past four years we have been allowed parking permits and we have been denied all of the sudden this year. I came here to stand up for the people that live in the building because we have about 40 units at 170 Amherst Street and there is absolutely no parking. They won't issue us parking permits. Across the street is Manchester Housing. We are not allowed to park in their parking garage. I was told the only way to overcome this is to go and park down near one of the parks. It is an inconvenience. It really is.

Kitty Peterson, 68 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I have lived at Amoskeag Place for about 25 years and I also work downtown so I feel like I have a real investment in downtown Manchester. I am happy to see the lot built upon next door at Manchester Place but I am very unhappy with the parking garage. It is the aesthetics that bother me the most. Of course, the building isn't fully occupied yet so we don't know how all of the traffic and parking issues are going to play out but the aesthetics of the building are really, I think, detrimental to the entire City. It is a gateway location and a landmark location and I feel that it is very disappointing that the structure can't offer something more to the City. In addition, I have to open the door every morning and look down there and see it. It is basically I-beams and rivets and cabling. It just has no design to

appreciate. Also, the lighting is really a problem. It is very bright and I think that can probably be remediated more simply than the other design aspects but I would really like to see if the City can do something about it. I think the City has some sort of ownership or control interest down there so I don't know that it is a problem entirely for the City but I will let the political people figure that one out.

Donald McLintock, 100 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I guess I am here to talk a little bit about some of the past of this whole project. I am very happy with the project and it is moving forward very well. I am not happy with the traffic. Nothing has been done. I went to the Planning Board when this thing was in its infancy and said you need to look at traffic. They said they had a plan of what the traffic pattern was and that was presented the night of the Planning Board meeting. They didn't say anything except that they know the traffic plan was adequate we were told. They said well we will take care of that later as far as the traffic would go up or down Hollis and Kidder Street. There was a lot of discussion about that and they said we will take care of that later. I guess my question here is we at Amoskeag Place have a community that has to take care of our own streets, plow our own streets, and we speed bumps for people going through and we put up signs at both ends of the alley that say "Private Way". That has not helped. We have talked about and were given the impression that the builders were going to help us in assisting in solving that problem. As far as I know, and Dick could tell you better, but as far as I know there has been no help coming from that direction. There have been a lot of promises but no help. I guess that is my main concern. The other main concern I have is we came before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Board and never received any response whatsoever so we assumed that some things were happening. We also believed what the builders were saying to us. We learned the hard way. That builder is going forward and trying to do something up in another area of the City and I would caution this Board and the Planning Board to see before you give them the open book to proceed. Thank you.

Will Infantine, 89 Winward Lane, Manchester stated:

I am here to speak about two projects this evening. The first, I think I was here nine or ten months ago to ask the Aldermen to kind of put their heads together to see what we could do regarding the parking problem that we have in the winter time with snow emergencies. We are here again and snow will be here very soon and some of the ideas I heard about were broadcasting snow emergencies in Spanish and having some kind of alarm or gong or notice in the downtown area. I don't know if anything has been accomplished since last year. I would respectfully request that the members of the appropriate committee get together and try to work on that in the next 30 to 60 days so that we don't have these people having to go and get their cars. It is really embarrassing to me as a citizen to drive by that lot on a snow emergency day and see 200 cars there. We can do better and should do better. Mr. Mayor, as you know being in politics is very rewarding and sometimes it is very humbling. I would like to personally thank you for your six years of dedication and hard work. While you and I will never see 100% eye to eye on certain issues we have worked together to get things

accomplished and sometimes we have opposed each other but I do respect what you have done for the City. You have acted honorably. My best to you. Thank you, Sir.

Glenn R.J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester stated:

I want to talk about homelessness. The past, present and future good of Manchester. What is that? What does it mean today and what will homelessness mean to us in the future for the great city of Manchester? Well it was never a crime to be poor in Manchester.

Homelessness never took you to jail in the past. The only way homelessness took you to jail was if you committed a crime or if in winter a blizzard occurred and you refused shelter when it wasn't fit outside for man nor beast. In today's present if one is in a wheelchair or unable to walk into our City's main shelter without help then being homeless and handicapped means tough luck. You either sleep outside, storm or no storm, or go to jail for speaking out for your human right of being fed or sheltered. This has happened in our very City in the last 30 days. Our society finds it cruel if we don't bring in the dog during storms unfit for man nor beast or abusive if we don't feed our pets but it is okay to jail a handicapped person demanding their rights to accessible shelter and a daily meal.

Manchester can do better. In Manchester today it also means that if you can't enter our soup kitchen in a capacity without help and you go hungry without food because they claim it is unsanitary to eat outside the shelter we make them go home and they have no homes to begin with. They are hungry and have no place to stay. Instead this City needs to have a policy not to send our hungry people away and without shelter because we don't have an accessible shelter. We took federal and state funding to make this building accessible. We have an elevator that does not work, a ramp that you can't use to get into the building. Please, we can do better.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented, and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk